



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/835,146 | 04/13/2001 | Ronald A. Katz | 6646-114N8 | 4440 |

35554 7590 01/02/2004

REENA KUYPER, ESQ.
BYARD NILSSON, ESQ.
9220 SUNSET BOULEVARD
SUITE 315
LOS ANGELES, CA 90069

| |
|----------|
| EXAMINER |
|----------|

WOO, STELLA L

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

2643

DATE MAILED: 01/02/2004

19

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/835,146

Applicant(s)

KATZ, RONALD A.

Examiner

Stella L. Woo

Art Unit

2643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 22-85 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22-85 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 17. 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 2643

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 22, 2003 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 52-57, 60-68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Szlam et al. (US 4,797,911, hereinafter "Szlam").

Szlam discloses method for controlling voice-data communication comprising:

interfacing certain individual callers (callers equipped with DTMF keypad telephones are interfaced with trunk interface unit 10a; col. 11, line 54 – col. 12, line 14);

prompting (via message player 10a9; col. 12, lines 17-28; col. 13, lines 1-22);

receiving (the calling party keys in his telephone number using his DTMF keypad; col. 12, lines 26-28; col. 13, lines 18-20);

Art Unit: 2643

comparing (mainframe 16 is checked using the calling party telephone number to determine whether the calling party is an existing client; col. 12, lines 39-44);

utilizing the caller identification data (the calling telephone number is used to retrieve full customer account information stored in mainframe 16; col. 12, lines 55-64; col. 13, lines 18-36); transferring and displaying (telephone number or account number information entered by a caller using DTMF keys is sent to an operator terminal, after which the number is used to retrieve and display full customer account information stored in the mainframe; col. 12, lines 55-66; col. 13, lines 18-36).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 22-47, 49-51, 69-75, 77-80, 82-85 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Szlam in view of Barger, Jr. et al. (US 4,071,698, hereinafter "Barger").

Szlam discloses a method for controlling voice-data communications comprising:

receiving (via ANI decoder; col. 12, lines 29-39);

cuing (via message player 10a9; col. 13, lines 1-22);

selectively identifying (via trunk interface control unit 10a13);

recording (account information is stored in mainframe 16); and

transferring and displaying (telephone number or account number information entered by a caller using DTMF keys is sent to an operator terminal, after which the number is used to

Art Unit: 2643

retrieve and display full customer account information stored in the mainframe; col. 12, lines 55-66; col. 13, lines 18-36), wherein the operator terminal is capable of entering other data to facilitate completion of the call (the operator can enter any necessary changes, addition or deletions via keyboard 12a6; col. 16, lines 18-24; col. 18, lines 28-46).

Szlam differs from claims 22-47, 49-51, 69-75, 77-80, 82-85 in that it does not specify testing a credit card number for approval. However, Szlam is directed to a customer account servicing system which allows for sales transactions (placing an order from a catalog or advertisement; col. 1, lines 17-20, 45-48) and Barger teaches the desirability of testing a customer identification number (credit card number is verified; col. 4, lines 61-67; col. 9, lines 40-45) such that it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill to incorporate such testing, as taught by Barger, within the system of Szlam in order to verify a caller's credit card number before allowing order placement.

Regarding claims 23, 25-27, 31-32, Barger teaches limiting use and recognizing a first time caller (col. 11, lines 18-47).

Regarding claims 40-43, Szlam provides for storing audio signals for later playback to an operator for entry into a database (col. 17, lines 27-46).

Regarding claim 83-85, Barger provides for automatically initiating operator assistance to push-button callers whose credit cannot be validated by the credit verification function or those determined to be freeloaders or those who key in a specified code requesting operator assistance are automatically connected with an attended terminal 39 (col. 9, lines 42-45; col. 11, lines 34-36; col. 9, lines 38-40).

Art Unit: 2643

6. Claims 48, 76, and 81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Szlam in view of Barger, and further in view of Stephenson, Jr. et al. (US 3,727,186, hereinafter "Stephenson").

The combination of Szlam and Barger differs from claims 48, 76 and 81 in that although it does teach credit card authorization (Barger, col. 8, lines 60-65; col. 9, lines 42-44), it does not specify the credit verification process as including testing for negative file data. However, Stephenson teaches that it is old and well known in the credit authorization art to test for negative file data (warning file 30) when determining whether or not a credit card number is authorized (col. 5, lines 22-28; col. 6, lines 30-37) and for referring the call to an operator in the event the credit card account is on the warning list (col. 5, lines 22-55; col. 6, lines 30-65; col. 8, lines 23-47) such that it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill to test for negative file data and refer such "negative" calls to an operator, as taught by Stephenson, within the combination of Szlam and Barger so that calls providing credit card numbers which have been flagged as invalid can be forwarded to an operator for a further authorization check.

7. Claims 58 and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Szlam in view of Schlafly (US 4,734,858).

Szlam differ from claims 58 and 59 in that although it provides for storing customer order information (Abstract), it does not specify the data including color or size. However, Schlafly teaches that it is well known in a telephone ordering system to specify a color and size as part of the order information (col. 7, lines 32-34) such that it would have been obvious to incorporate the use of color and size data, as taught by Schlafly, within the ordering system of Szlam when the item being ordered requires a color or size specification.

Art Unit: 2643

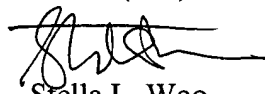
Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed September 22, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the applied prior art do not teach a customer identification number entered by the caller being displayed on the operator's terminal. The examiner contends that Szlam clearly teaches receiving a caller's telephone number or account number that is entered by the caller using his DTMF keypad and sending the collected information to the operator terminal for display (see col. 13, lines 18-25).

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stella L. Woo whose telephone number is (703) 305-4395. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday, Thursday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on (703) 305-4708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.


Stella L. Woo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2643